

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

MCT-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GW GR

SUBJECT: GERMAN-GREEK RELATIONS: THE POHLE CASE MAY
CAUSE PROBLEMS

1. FRG-GREECE RELATIONS ARE PASSING THROUGH A TESTING TIME ACCORDING TO FONOFF (BENSCH). THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR CONCERN IS THE FAILURE OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO EXTRADITE THE GERMAN TERRORIST POHLE. THE FONOFF, WHICH DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT GREEK COURTS ARE AS INDEPENDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE AS THE GOG MAINTAINS, IS CONVINCED THAT THE GOG IS NOT GIVING THE FRG'S EXTRADITION REQUEST THE SUPPORT IT DESERVES.

2. THE GERMAN REACTION SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN TO LINK SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE POHLE CASE TO OTHER POLICY ISSUES SUCH AS GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP OR CONTINUED GERMAN MILITARY AID. HOWEVER, THE FONOFF FEARS THAT ITS RESTRAINT WILL NOT BE MATCHED BY THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY AS THE FINAL TENSE PHASE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS. IF THE LINK
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IS MADE IN THE PRESSURE OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING, THE

FONOFF EXPECTS CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO FRG-GREECE
RELATIONS.

3. THE POLICY OF RESTRAINT WAS NOTICEABLE IN GOVERNMENT
SPOKESMAN BOELLING'S REPLY WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT AN
INTERVIEW BY GREEK LEFTIST LEADER ANDREAS
PAPANDREOU IN SEPTEMBER 7 EDITION OF DER SPIEGEL.
PAPANDREOU HAD ACCUSED THE FRG OF INTERFERENCE IN GREEK
INDEPENDENCE IN REQUESTING POHLE'S EXTRADITION BECAUSE
HIS CRIMES WERE POLITICAL. PAPANDREOU WENT ON TO
ACCUSE THE FRG OF INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
ITALY, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN, CONCLUDING THAT THE FRG IS
WASHINGTON'S TOOL IN THE EC AND EUROPE. BOELLING
DISMISSED PAPANDREOU'S REMARKS AS "FLIPPANT AND
FRIVOLOUS," BUT HE REFUSED TO GO FURTHER OR TO SAY
THAT THEY REPRESENT OFFICIAL VIEWS IN ATHENS.

4. IN THE WORDS OF BENSCH, THE FONOFF WILL BE WALKING
A TIGHTROPE BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER 3.
HILLENBRAND

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